Equal Rights

VOL. XVIII, No. 21
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
JUNE 25, 1932

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Californians Urge Justice for All

Mrs. William Kent, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party and a prominent member of the California Branch of the Party, has been a devoted and generous supporter of Equal Rights since the inception of the Woman's Party. With other leaders in the California Branch, she called recently upon Mark Requa, Republican National Committeeman of California, to request his support of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution. Those in the delegation, reading from left to right, were: Ida Reid, former president California Federation Business and Professional Women; Mrs. Kent; Mrs. Genevieve Allen, president of the California Branch of the National Woman's Party; Hon. Mark L. Requa, Republican National Committeeman from California, chairman of the California State Republican Committee, California member of the Republican Party; and Miss Z. Clements, former president of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women. Mrs. Kent's late husband was an ardent supporter of the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

Equal Rights

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of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill,
Washington, D. C.
Phone, Lincoln 1366
Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street,
Baltimore, Md.
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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., Under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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Annual Dues	$10.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by Representative Louis Ludlow, Indiana.

The Way to Victory

THE Democratic Convention which opens Monday in Chicago has a great advantage over its predecessor. It can profit by the latter's mistakes, both of omission and commission.

The Republican Party has thrust aside the Equal Rights plank. This is an error which the Democratic Party will now be asked to rectify.

If it takes up the stone which the Republican platform builders rejected, it will accomplish two tremendous results. It will make inevitable the prompt passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, thereby freeing one-half the people from subjection to unjust laws handed down from the Dark Ages. And it will gain the votes of millions of enlightened women and men for whom "complete equality" for women with men is the one and only issue in the coming campaign.

It is well to remind the delegates that the legal shackles which enthrall the modern woman and impede the progress of the whole human race were placed upon her in an age when the common man grovelled in serfdom before a feudal lord. The same society which bound men to their overlords decreed that women should be legal nonentities. In feudal times women had no legal existence whatever.

The Supreme Court, harking back to the common or feudal law in interpreting the Constitution of the United States, has recently held that women are not persons within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteeing "equal protection of the laws." And so women are in truth unequally protected and unjustly subject to property, guardianship, marriage, divorce and other laws that reek with the ignoble fictions, subterfuges, superstitions and intolerances of the Middle Ages. Such laws have no place in the world of the radio and airplane, of Lindbergh and Earhart.

We are glad for our brothers that the abomination of serfdom has been long since abolished. We appeal to you, men and women of the Democratic Convention, to hasten the day when complete freedom shall be granted also to women by extending the benefits of "equal protection," the bulwark of American liberty, to every citizen. The adherents of even-handed justice will flock to your banners—you will inaugurate an era of righteousness and progress for all humankind.

Crumbs Will Not Satisfy

IN THE treatment accorded the National Woman's Party at Chicago we are reminded of the story of Lazarus who ate the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.

From what should have been a feast of reason founded on a right conception of justice, the Republican Party scattered a few crumbs which, while visible to the naked eye, will not begin to satisfy the growing and insatiable hunger of the women of the United States to have the same legal sanctions applied to them as to their brothers.

Among others, the Republican platform contains a plank pledging the party to maintain "equal opportunity and rights for our negro citizens." This, when the negro man is protected in his rights by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The Supreme Court has said so. It has also supported the view that women are not protected.

In other words, the negro man who needs no protection is assured that he will get it, while the women who asked the Republican Party to pave the way that will lead to equality before the law with men are denied that support.

Among what may be considered "crumbs" of comfort for women is a plank favoring the "principle of the shorter work day with its application to Government as well as to private employment." Here, at least, there is no discrimination against women.

Another "crumb" upholds the merit system, declaring that, "as part of our governmental system it is now unassailable." This means, we take it, that the Republican Party, if reinstated, will not tolerate the dismissal of women from public office on the score of sex or marriage.

In the plank on welfare legislation women are not grouped with children—a distinct advance from the days when the legal irresponsibility of children and idiots was imputed to women.

But by far the greatest "crumb" of comfort is the thought that the Lazaruses of the world eventully have their day. The dawn of justice for women may be nearer than we think.

The Republican Hearing on the Equal Rights Plank

THE National Woman's Party was given a hearing before the Resolutions Committee of the Republican Convention on Tuesday evening, June the fourteenth. Mrs. Max Rotter, of Wisconsin, introduced the Equal Rights spokesmen, Rebekah Greathouse of New Jersey, Burnita Shelton Matthews of Mississippi, and Virginia White Speel, Republican National Committeewoman of the District of Columbia.

Arrangements for the hearing were made upon the arrival of the Woman's Party deputation in Chicago; but the hour was not definitely set by the Resolutions Committee until late in the afternoon of June fourteenth. A group of Chicago members and friends came over for the hearing in the early afternoon, and finding that the hour for the hearing had been postponed until nine in the evening, telephoned their families not to expect them home for dinner, and calmly settled down to wait.

The Woman's Party plank was in two sections, national and international. Mrs. Rotter read first the proposal for national Equal Rights, as follows:

> "The National Republican Party stands for Equal Rights and equal opportunities for men and women and pledges its support to the proposed amendment to the national constitution which reads:
>
> 'Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction'."

She then introduced Rebekah Greathouse, Assistant United States Attorney and Chairman of the Lawyers Council of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Greathouse said:

"The resolution we are asking for today is one that I am sure every member of this committee approves in theory. When we went to school and learned the first principles of government, we believed that all the protective amendments of the Constitution of the United States applied to girls as well as to boys, and we rejoiced to belong to such an enlightened government. That magnificent phrase in the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing to all persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States 'the equal protection of the laws' does not say 'except women.' The school histories do not tell us that it means 'except women,' but the Supreme Court of the United States has supported the contention that the words 'except women' are understood there, in view of the Common Law of England. And the Supreme Court of the United States is always right!

"Because of that exception and because of other relics of the Common Law, there are still States in which a woman cannot contract freely. There are still States in which the father has the sole control of children. There are still States in which the products of a woman's labor belong to her husband. There are still States where women are classified with children under the law. And every day we are threatened with new restrictions in the guise of so-called 'protective' legislation. All the sincere objects of protective legislation can be accomplished by making the laws apply to men and women alike. Applied to women alone, they serve to enlarge the opportunities of men and to restrict those of women. A sure way to keep women from working too long and too hard would be to limit the working hours of *men* to six hours a day! Then women would be in such demand that they could choose the work that best suited them.

"We are simply asking that the phrase 'except women' be removed from the Constitution by means of the Equal Rights Amendment, so that we shall truly have 'equality and justice for all'. We are asking the Grand Old Republican Party to do this for the women of America."

Mrs. Rotter next read the international section of the Equal Rights plank, as follows:

"The National Republican Party recommends to the Executive that the nations of the world be invited to enter into a treaty which shall read:

> 'The contracting States agree that, upon the ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdictions.'

"The party supports the principle of equality in all international agreements which bear upon the status of women. It approves the present Republican Administration's refusal to become a party to The Hague Nationality Convention which is based on sex inequality. In the event that this country shall become a member of or contribute money to an international institution which condones the Old World attitude toward women, the party advocates effective guarantees against any direct or indirect discriminations based on sex."

She then introduced Burnita Shelton Matthews, member from the United States of the Committee of Experts on Women's Work of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence and Law Reform of the National Association of Women Lawyers, and Research Chairman of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Matthews said:

"In this day and time international agreements are on the increase. Phases of the position of women have been dealt with in a number of proposed international agreements. We wish to prevent any backward step being taken in the international field with respect to the status of women. That women have cause for alarm is shown by recent international activities. For instance, in 1930, a World Conference was held at The Hague for the codification of international law. Practically all of the governments of the world participated, including the United States, and out of that conference came a proposed treaty on nationality and citizenship discriminating against women. It is based on the theory of the inferiority of women, and the superiority of men. After great pressure was brought to bear, including repeated delegations of women to President Hoover, the United States delegation refused to sign the proposal for a nationality treaty, the ground of the refusal being that the proposal violates the American conception of women's independence with regard to citizenship and nationality rights. Despite the attitude of the United States, the League of Nations is pressing for the necessary ratifications. If they are secured, then the nationality proposal which will be harmful to women the world over will become the cornerstone for a world code of law to be administered by the World Court.

PLANK PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Equality for Men and Women

NATIONAL

The National Democratic Party stands for Equal Rights and equal opportunities for men and women and pledges its support to the proposed amendment to the National Constitution, which reads:

> **"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."**

INTERNATIONAL

The National Democratic Party recommends to the Executive that the nations of the world be invited to enter into a treaty, which shall read:

> **"The contracting States agree that, upon the ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdictions."**

The Party supports the principle of equality in all international agreements which bear upon the status of women. It approves the refusal of the Government of the United States to become a party to The Hague Nationality Convention, which is based on sex inequality. In the event that this country shall become a member of or contribute money to an international institution which condones the Old World attitude toward women, the Party advocates effective guarantees against any direct or indirect discriminations based on sex.

Women fear that this will be an entering wedge for further discriminations against them in a world code of law.

"And if another instance is needed, witness the effort recently made to secure by international agreement further restrictions upon the right of women to work at night. Probably few people prefer to work at night. But it is better to work at night than not at all. Closing night work to women is a minority point of view in the United States, a few occupations in only sixteen States being affected. That being true, and in view of the scarcity of jobs, imagine our surprise one day to read in the press that the United States would send a representative abroad to the Night Work Conference to help with a further international restriction which would throw thousands of women out of work. Women throughout the country protested, and the United States government representative then on the high sea was told to stay away from the conference.

"These instances show why it is that the National Woman's Party asks the Republican Party to go on record in favor of upholding the rights of women internationally.

"As the best means of securing equality for men and women internationally the Woman's Party suggests a treaty reading:

> 'The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdictions'.

"This proposed treaty has been approved by the Institute of International Law, by the American Society of International Law and by the Inter-American Commission of Women.

"If the United States insists upon equal treatment of men and women, it will have taken moral leadership on behalf of the rights of women, a leadership which the world sorely needs at this time."

Finally, Mrs. Rotter introduced Virginia White Speel, Dean of Republican Women, National Committeewoman from the District of Columbia, and founder of the Republican Club of the District of Columbia. Mrs. Speel spoke tersely and to the point:

"I wish to go on record as endorsing the Equal Rights plank," she said. "We need the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. Men and women should stand shoulder to shoulder, sharing the responsibilities of citizenship as equals before the law."

Hon. James R. Garfield, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, rose to congratulate the women at the close of the Woman's Party presentation of its plank:

"If all speakers were as prompt, as considerate, and as courteous as these ladies in addressing the Committee," he said, "and kept within the time assigned as they have done, we could accomplish much more here."

Side-Lights on the Republican National Convention

I

AVANGUARD of Woman's Party representatives arrived in Chicago on June the twelfth, two days before the opening of the Republican National Convention on Tuesday, June the fourteenth. Caroline Giltinan Harlow of Alexandria, Virginia, editor of *The Carillon,* Mrs. Max Rotter of Milwaukee, Vice-Chairman for Wisconsin, and Muna Lee of Puerto Rico, Director of National Activities, arriving together from Washington, were joined at the Congress Hotel by Betty H. Ashmore of Colorado Springs, who came out from New York to help work for an Equal Rights plank in the Republican platform.

Banners and literature were unpacked, the proposed Equal Rights plank prominently displayed and the Woman's Party established in its convention headquarters before noon on Sunday. The deputation from national headquarters conferred immediately with Mary Caroline Taylor, Acting Chairman for Illinois, and Bertha Moller Delin of Chicago, regarding Woman's Party plans and arrangements for presenting the plank. Press contacts were established and a systematic interviewing of convention officials was begun, to acquaint them with the growing and insistent demand of women for equality before the law.

Betty Ashmore, active in this work of Equal Rights education, was also successful in having a table assigned to the National Woman's Party on the mezzanine floor of the Congress Hotel, where Republican National Headquarters was established. Facing the elevators, in the center of the floor, the table, draped in purple, white and gold, surmounted by a placard announcing "National Woman's Party," was easily the most conspicuous object on the floor. Chicago members alternated in presiding there, dispensing Equal Rights, Woman's Party literature, and general information to a crowd that on many occasions was four deep round the table. The strategic importance of the location was obvious from the first.

II

On Monday evening a Woman's Party dinner at The Congress served to bring together old members and new friends for the completion of plans for the hearing on the Equal Rights plank before the Resolutions Committee of the convention the following day. Bertha Moller Delin presided at the dinner, and in rapid succession women representing varied activities rose to pledge their support of the Equal Rights plank.

Rebekah Greathouse and Burnita Shelton Matthews, as lawyers, spoke on the legal aspect. Dr. Petra Dahl, president of the Medical Women's Club, urged equality from the standpoint of the physician. Mary Caroline Taylor, Acting Chairman for Illinois, teacher of science, presented the case for industrial equality. Mrs. Max Rotter, Wisconsin Vice-Chairman, and Mabel Raef Putnam, former State Chairman for Wisconsin, told how they put an Equal Rights law through the legislature in their State, and Mrs. Rotter explained what was, as she expressed it, "most on my mind tonight," the Equal Rights plank proposed for the Republican platform.

Alice Gerstenberg, playwright, spoke on the universal appeal of Equal Rights, once the issue is clearly understood.

Eunice Tietjens, novelist and poet, was greeted with laughter and applause when she announced "Surely, I am not the only idiot in the country! I never heard of the Equal Rights Amendment until this afternoon: there must be others who will respond to it as I did, when they know about it. This is so logical, so lucid, that I am heartily in favor of it and want to do what I can to bring it about."

Another distinguished and internationally famous guest of the evening, Harriet Monroe, editor of *Poetry: a Magazine of Verse,* spoke briefly and feelingly, mainly of the significance of the campaign for equality as revealed in the evening's talks. In closing, Miss Monroe said: "I hope that I may see the attainment of your purpose, and I hope it may come soon."

Muna Lee, Director of National Activities, reported briefly on what the Woman's Party is doing through the State branches; through national headquarters at Washington; and through the international headquarters at Geneva.

III

On June thirteenth, eve of the convention, Dr. Petra Dahl headed a delegation which waited upon Roy D. West, Republican National Committeeman of Illinois and a member of the preliminary Platform Committee of the convention, to urge inclusion of the Equal Rights plank. The petition they left was signed by Dr. Dahl, herself, President of the Medical Women's Club; Doctors Marie B. Lezat and Frances A. Ring, medical examiners; Dr. Marie A. Olsen, trustee for the Norwegian-American Hospital; Dr. Frances Gage Hulburt, secretary of the Medical Women's Club;

Dr. Elizabeth J. McDonnell; Dr. Helga Kund; Dr. Anna White Sage; Montana Harper, Past President of the First Division of the International Federation of Women's Clubs; Maud Lattan, Treasurer of the Daughters of Union Veterans; Dr. Kathryn Swartz, President of the Progressive Club; and Hazel V. P. Jamison, Secretary of the Vigilance Forum of Chicago.

IV

The only woman member of the Resolutions Committee of the Republican National Convention was Dr. Martha Robert de Romeu, National Committeewoman and delegate from Puerto Rico. Dr. Robert de Romeu is a member of the National Woman's Party and a leader in Feminist progress in Puerto Rico.

"Of course, I am in favor of the Equal Rights plank," she told reporters as she went into the meeting of the Resolutions Committee. "I will do all that I can to make it a fact."

G. O. P. Platform Disappoints Feminists

"THE Republican platform as adopted by the Republican National Convention does not contain one word advocating the removal of the inequalities against which the women citizens of the country struggle," declared Muna Lee, Director of National Activities of the Woman's Party, at Woman's Party Headquarters in Chicago on Friday, June 17th. "The most that can be said for it from a Feminist standpoint is that it does not increase these inequalities. Women in the United States, it would appear, are in the situation of Alice in Wonderland. Like Alice, we must run as hard as we can in order to stay where we are.

"The platform declares that the Republican Party believes in Equal Rights and equal opportunities for negroes. We are disheartened and humiliated to find that it will not make a similar statement regarding the rights and opportunities of the women of this country.

"The only source of satisfaction to be found in the party platform by women the country over who demand equality is that the Republican Party has not gone on record in favor of inequality and discrimination. It recommends a shorter working day and a shorter working week, not for women alone, but for all workers. Every Feminist can subscribe heartily to that plank. It recommends special labor legislation for the welfare of children, and does not commit the offense of including women in the class with children as minors instead of adults. It advocates a continuance of the merit system in the Civil Service, and does not advocate the dismissal of women on account of marriage. For these things, women are profoundly grateful.

"But is the day not at hand when women can cease to be thankful merely because they have not been further discriminated against, grateful that they have not been victimized? Is it not time that occasion be given women to rejoice because they are recognized as persons, entitled to that equal protection of the laws guaranteed to all persons by the United States Constitution, but, up to the present time, denied to women?"

Mabel Raef Putnam, former Wisconsin State Chairman of the Woman's Party said: "The National Woman's Party demands nothing more than simple equality. Women will be satisfied with nothing less. We shall present our Equal Rights plank to the Democratic Party next week, offering that party the opportunity to endorse the principle of Equal Rights for American women."

Conference on Regulating Women's Work

THE announcement and program — just off the press—of the Institute of Public Affairs of the University of Virginia, includes an important special conference on Regulating Women's Work by Law. Gail Laughlin, of Portland, Maine, National Vice-Chairman of the Woman's Party, is leader. This conference is of the utmost importance because of the opportunity it affords of defining and making manifest the attitude of the employed woman toward her elemental human right to work.

The conference will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, July 6 and 7, in Madison Hall auditorium at the University of Virginia, one of the most classically beautiful universities of the world.

This summer will mark the sixth session of the Institute of Public Affairs, the purpose of which is to advance the popular understanding of current public questions. The Institute emphasizes particularly the domestic problems of the United States, and provides for their discussion in a broad and competent fashion by men and women charged with the task of public administration and by those who are actively engaged in public affairs. The program is limited primarily to a study and discussion of governmental problems of national, State and local concern, and the economic and social conditions underlying them. An effort has been made to select for discussion those questions which are of immediate concern and interest to the American people.

Invitations to participate in the discussions of the Institute have been extended to recognized scholars and research workers in these various fields and to outstanding men and women in practical politics and public service. The Governor of Virginia has appointed delegates from the various counties and cities of the State to attend the session which convenes on July 3.

The directors of the Institute propose that it shall be conducted along broad and liberal lines and that it shall be national in its scope. In furtherance of this aim, there is associated with the administrative officers of the Institute, an Advisory Board composed of prominent educators, and recognized leaders in public affairs, selected from all sections of the country, and from the two political parties.

Return trip railroad rates on the indentification certificate plan have been secured for members over the Norfolk and Western, the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Southern Railroad, and on all roads in the South Eastern Passenger Traffic Association. Certificates may be had on application to the office of the Institute of Public Affairs. Stop-over privileges will be granted from points not in the South Eastern Passenger Traffic Association. Tickets will be on sale June 30 to July 16.

The Virginia Stage Lines operating between Charlottesville and Washington, Lynchburg or Richmond are offering a round trip fare at one and one-half rates from these cities or any points between. This offer is open for the full time of the Institute.

Summer tourist tickets for those who fail to secure identification certificates may also be purchased within the southeastern territory as well as from other points. Inquiry should be made in advance from the local ticket agent.

The Institute begins on July 3 and closes July 16. Among the Round Tables announced are those on "Economic Recovery," "Unemployment," and "Our Latin-American Relations." For the National Woman's Party, and for all who are interested in industrial equality, the Conference on Women's Work, directed by Gail Laughlin, will be one of the most important events in this year of important events.

The Status of Women in Cuba

By Conchita Ribas de Macmillan
Address Delivered Recently at International Dinner at Alva Belmont House

I HAVE been asked to speak on the status of the Cuban woman. Although it is far from being what we should like, much has been accomplished by the Feminist associations, which have been heard in conventions where the Cuban woman was well represented.

If you are familiar with our traditions, customs, and inclinations (I can very well include all the Spanish-American countries) you may understand better the tremendous task of winning our men to share our point of view. Man, generally, all over the world, considers himself superior to woman; but in our countries he goes so far as to think a woman cannot succeed in civic life, because she is not meant for that. Woman's place is the home, where she must be satisfied with rearing children and looking her prettiest: commendable occupations, most assuredly; but an incomplete life.

The Cuban woman is now awake. The gallant work and example of North American woman have been the guiding light. The Cuban woman has realized that her mind is as capable as man's; that she must develop it in every way; that she must fight her own battles, stand on her own rights.

Our Alianza Nacional Feminista—National Feminist Alliance—has done most efficient work. It was organized in 1928, with a program so extensive that it became necessary to appoint permanent committees to take charge of the development of the work in different sectors. There are committees for civic education, publicity, social reform, culture, suffrage, peace.

One of the aims in the campaign was to interest women of culture and high social position in the Feminist movement, and their co-operation has proved of great value. Something this body of women are proud of is having edited a civic test for the education of adults. They have broadcast hundreds of speeches; and have given lectures not only in their club, but in offices, factories, shops and private homes.

The Suffrage Committee recently made an inquiry to find the opinion of legislators, with results not very encouraging. It also made a similar inquiry among the most prominent men and women of the whole Republic, with this result: Favorable to universal vote, 83 per cent.; favorable to restricted vote, 8 per cent.; against, 9 per cent. This association has 1,265 members. There are many women's groups throughout the country; but not always with Feminist tendencies. The nationality situation has been improved by Bravo Correoso's law, Article 22, of which reads: "The Cuban woman who marries a foreigner will not lose her nationality because of her marriage."

The development of the Cuban woman is evident in all classes. Statistics show that in 1925 women enrolled in the University of Havana represented 12 per cent.; in 1930, 22 per cent. The woman of Cuba wants Equal Rights and expects to obtain them. Her ambition has no limit.

Press Comment

Trial by Males Protested

Washington Times, June 6, 1932.

THE spectacle of twelve men and no women sitting in judgment on the claims of a woman against a man has awakened Feminists to a new discussion of the right of women to sit on juries.

The suit of Mrs. Louise Dixon, red-haired housekeeper, who is asking $89,000 from 73-year-old Clarence A. Pitman, nephew of the Knight who invented shorthand, will come to an end today when the twelve middle-aged men who form the jury will decide whether or not Pitman really made a life contract with the would-be scenario writer.

Whatever their decision, either for or against the woman, she would not have a strictly fair trial, Feminists declare, for she has not been pleading her cause before a jury of her peers. There would have to be women on such a jury.

In New York State, as in thirty-six other States, women are forbidden to serve on juries.

Mrs. Mildred Palmer, executive secretary of the New York City Committee of the National Woman's Party, which has been working for feminine jury service for years, asked:

"How can a woman be tried by her peers if none are of her own sex? Legally, a woman, going before a male jury, is going before her superiors. How can they judge her?"

From Porto Rico

Chicago Daily Times, June 14, 1932.

THE only woman member of the Republican Resolutions Committee is a member of the Woman's Party and pledged to do all she can to further the Equal Rights plank. She is Dr. Martha Robert de Romeu of Porto Rico, who is a physician and chief of the Porto Rican Bureau of Child Hygiene.

"Brainy Women" in N. W. P. Delegation

Chicago Herald and Examiner, June 14, 1932.

THE National Woman's Party has sent a group of their brainiest women to Chicago to fight for an Equal Rights Amendment plank or, in other words, for a "better place in the sun," to be incorporated in both the national platforms. Monday evening they held a dinner in the Congress Hotel, being entertained by the local officers of the National Woman's Party, among whom was noted Mrs. Bertha Delin, the Chicago attorney, who was chairman of the meeting; Alice Gerstenberg, the playwright; Harriet Monroe, editor of *Poetry*, a magazine of verse; and Eunice Tietjiens.

An excellent and earnest address was given by Mrs. Rebekah Greathouse, Assistant United States Attorney of the District of Columbia, who is a niece of the late Senator Dwight Morrow of New Jersey. Muna Lee, the poet, director of national activities of the National Woman's Party, and Burnita Shelton Matthews, research chairman of Washington, were other speakers.

One Solution

State Journal, Reno, Nevada, June 1, 1932.

EVER receive a letter from a stranger signed, with bewildering simplicity, "Mary Jones"? You square off to your stenographer, pen and ink or typewriter — as the case may be — to answer, and you are at a loss to determine if you should begin, "My Dear Mrs. Smith," or "My Dear Miss Smith."

According to the San Francisco *Chronicle* the puzzle is about to be ended by the simple process of eliminating the "Miss" from the language and by addressing all adult women as "Mrs." The proposal, according to the San Francisco newspaper, is made by Dr. Mary A. Williams of Goucher College. The idea seems to have decided merit. Moreover, it has old and respectable precedent. In fact, according to Mr. Webster, both "Mrs." and "Miss" are merely contracted forms of "Mistress," which was the polite address of mature females in the Elizabethan days.

Even after the contracted form was adopted, "Mrs." was applied indiscrimi-

nately to married and unmarried alike.

"Mister" remained the customary title for men whether they were bachelors or benedicts, and the contraction to "Mr." did not alter the custom. But through some strange quirk "Mrs." came to designate a married woman and "Miss," which was but another contraction of the same word, was applied only to the unmarried.

In this era of the new freedom it is not surprising that women rise up to protest against the discrimination. Dr. Williams has laid the matter before the proper tribunal. Her proposal to make every woman a "Mrs." was contained in a speech to the National Woman's Party, which is on the alert to abolish inequalities, social or legal, between the sexes. Here is one which commends itself to attention.

Censures Republican Platform

The Baltimore Sun, June 20, 1932.

THE Republican platform was censured tonight by Mrs. John Brisben Walker of New York, National Woman's Party official, as one which "completely ignores women's demand for equality of opportunity."

Through a statement from the Woman's Party headquarters, Mrs. Walker said that "for the first time since 1912 a national convention of a major political party does absolutely nothing to advance the position of women."

"The Republican Party in its platform expresses concern for the rights of Porto Ricans, Hawaiians, Alaskans, the Negro race, the Indians, the veterans, and so on," she added "but evidences no concern whatever over the position of women, despite the fact that women's status is inferior to that of any of the other groups."

Resist Discrimination in International Law

Newark (N. J.) News, June 10, 1932.

WOMEN'S associations which maintain lobbies at Washington or otherwise concern themselves actively with public affairs are busy setting up temporary offices at Chicago from which to importune platform makers.

The National Woman's Party will maintain Chicago offices, with deputations of Democratic and Republican women on the ground to plead for equality of women with men before the law. Support of the Lucretia Mott Amendment to the Federal Constitution is sought.

The National Woman's Party will resist entry of the United States into the World Court or any co-operation of this country with the court so long as there is discrimination against women in the code the court is to administer. This is applicable particularly to the proposed nationality code, in which women would not have the same rights as men.

Poet Pleads for Equal Rights

The Baltimore Sun, June 13, 1932.

THE women who want the right to hold any kind of tough job a man holds, that is, the National Woman's Party, set up its lobby headquarters at the Congress Hotel today. Curiously enough, the leader of this Feminist delegation is the very feminine Muna Lee, dark-eyed poetess from Porto Rico. For the duration of the conventions she has laid aside the pencil with which she writes odes and is writing a platform plank beseeching both parties to give the women of the country the Susan B. Anthony Twentieth Amendment, guaranteeing absolute Equal Rights to women.

Feminist Notes

Mrs. Smith Speaks in Yonkers

JANE NORMAN SMITH spoke on the international work in general and the equality reservation to World Court entrance, in particular, before a League of Women Voters' meeting held recently in Yonkers. Mrs. Smith stressed the importance of having the world code initiated on a basis of equality. She also gave a vivid account of the work being done for Equal Rights through the Geneva headquarters of the Woman's Party's Committee on International Relations, under the direction of its chairman, Alice Paul.

Examination Obligatory; Marriage Optional

IF THE French Government adopts the recommendation of the French Eugenic Society, backed by an important body of physicians, pre-nuptial examination of both prospective husband and wife will be compulsory. The examination may be held by any doctor the couple choose, and the consultation will be confidential and verbal, the doctor merely certifying that it has taken place. The result of examination will neither interdict nor compel marriage; the decision will be made entirely by the couple.

Women Prosecutors in Ireland

WOMEN barristers in Ireland are asking the new government to appoint a proportion of women as State prosecutors. So far only men have prosecuted in the criminal courts. Irish women see no reason why eventually women should not be high court judges in the Irish Free State.

Voluntary Nationality in Peru

ACCORDING to *L'Internationale Feminin,* married women in Peru can retain their own nationality if they so wish.

A Notable Anniversary

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN, published by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance in London, reports the recent celebration of the twenty-first birthday of St. Joan's S. P. A. The twentieth annual meeting, which was held in the spring, was fitly celebrated by adoption of high-spirited resolutions, advocating, among other principles, equal political rights, an equal moral standard, equal pay and opportunities, and equal nationality.

St. Joan's S. P. A. at this meeting reiterated its belief that the only policy which safeguards women's individual liberty and responsibility is "that of basing all labor regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all conferences of the International Labor Office."

It is heartening also to quote the following section from the twenty-first annual report of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, likewise printed in *The Catholic Citizen:* "Nationality of Married Women—Early in January the Council of the League of Nations set up a consultative committee of representatives from women's international organizations to consider and report on the nationality of married women. This committee presented an agreed report in favor of a woman's right to retain or change her nationality on marriage. The Bureau of the International Catholic Women's League addressed a memorandum to the secretary of the League of Nations to the effect that the right of women to choose their nationality was prejudicial to the unity of the family. St. Joan's S. P. A.

immediately wrote to the secretary-general of the League and to the British delegation expressing their emphatic disagreement with the memorandum and pointing out, *inter alia,* that several Catholic countries already have equal nationality laws between men and women, and that the same arguments had been used against the Married Woman's Property Act and Woman's Suffrage. The French Section of St. Joan's Alliance, also the *Centre des Recherches Feministes,* composed of Catholic women, and the British Branch of the C. W. L. sent a telegram to Geneva disassociating themselves from the bureau's memorandum."

Regarding St. Joan's S. P. A.'s equal nationality campaigning, we reproduce the following interesting item from the same number of *The Catholic Citizen,* showing the sentiment in favor of equality in nationality among dignitaries of the Catholic Church:

"Our members will now have received petition forms respecting the nationality of married women. This petition, which is being organized on international lines, is to be presented to the League of Nations. We ask members to sign themselves, get their forms filled as quickly as possible, and send for more. The petition has been already signed by His Grace, the Archbishop of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, who writes: "It gives me very great pleasure to return your appeal signed by me. I am so glad to see that you are still keeping the flag flying." By His Lordship, the Bishop of Pella, the Bishop of Orleans, and his Vicar-General, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., who writes: "Your petition is one that should never have been required. May the women's petition succeed." Dom Gilbert has collected signatures from the abbot and from other members of his community. Many other priests have signed, including Dr. W. H. Kent, O.S.C.; Don Sturzo, and members of the Franciscans and Redemptorists, a Dominican, a Jesuit, and many secular priests. Members are asked to return the forms by end of May."

News from the Field

Form Baltimore Branch

PURSUING the plan formulated at the recent State Convention of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, a group of Baltimore members of the Party met Monday, June 13, at the Woman's City Club of Baltimore and organized the Baltimore City Branch of the Party.

Edith Houghton Hooker, State president, presided, and the following were elected officers; President, Emma Maddox Funck; first vice-president, Gwendolyn B. Willis; second vice-president, Mrs. L. E. Finnell; recording secretary, Mary Dorsey Leonard; corresponding secretary, Rose Irene Loeffler; treasurer, Mollye H. Rollman. Chairmen of standing committees are: Program, Marion D. McCurdy; hostesses, Mrs. J. Meixner; legislative, Vera Fowler Lewis; and finance, Mrs. J. Preston Tippett.

Status of Philippine Women

SENORA DE OSIAS of Manila, wife of the junior Philippine Commissioner in Congress, and distinguished for her own contributions to the social, educational and political development of the Islands, was the charming guest speaker at the international dinner at Alva Belmont House on Wednesday evening, June 1.

Hazel Clark Taylor, founder of the Little Theatre movement in Manila and formerly on the faculty of the University of the Philippines, introduced Señora de Osias, stressing the self-reliance and independent spirit of Philippine women, and praising their individuality and resourcefulness as far in excess of that of other women of the Orient.

Señora de Osias told of the participation of women in all phases of Philippine life, and of the important part they played in the past elections. She said women had left to one side their campaign for the vote until insular independence should be attained; but predicted that suffrage would be written into the Republican constitution.

Both Philippine Commissioners in Congress, Pedro Guevara and Camilo Osias, were guests of honor at the dinner, as was also Luis Muñoz Marín, representative in Washington of the Liberal Party of Porto Rico. Following Señora Osias' address, an animated informal discussion took place as to the present status of women and as to equal status as an immediate necessity. Iris Calderhead Walker and Burnita Shelton Matthews, Señor Osias and Señor Guevara led the discussion.

A Porto Rican Feminist

THhe University of Porto Rico, which has on several occasions given practical expression to its Feminist sympathies, awarded an honorary Ph.D. at its recent commencement exercises to the beloved septuagenian suffrage leader on the island, Doña Ana Roqué de Duprey. "Doña Ana," as she is affectionately known to all Porto Rico, is the first woman to receive an honorary degree from the island university. Seventy-nine years old, she tasted the joys of triumph recently when she registered for her first ballot under the new law permitting literate Porto Rican women to vote in this year's elections.

Doña Ana is an invalid, and her daughter represented her at the awarding of the degree; but invalid or not, she insisted on going to register for her first vote. It was the only occasion she had left her home for a long period; and it was an event of widespread interest when, escorted to Senator Antonio Barceló, head of the Liberal Party advocating complete independence for Porto Rico, Doña Ana went to register as a voter. The registration office was on the second floor, and the veteran suffragist could not climb the stairs, but as soon as news of her arrival reached the officials, desks and papers were carried down to her.

Years ago Doña Ana won the attention of the French astronomer, Camille Flammarion, by an article describing her astronomical observations. Instruments for continuing such research were beyond her means, however; so, as she puts it, "Being a practical person, I turned to botany." For nearly a half century she has been studying the flora of Porto Rico and other islands of the Caribbean.

In her years of working for the vote, Dr. Duprey realized the suffrage cause must have a paper of its own; so she became Porto Rico's pioneer woman journalist. She has published and edited five journals, two of them — *La Muger del Siglo X X* and *El Heraldo de la Mujer*— coming as valuable exchanges to EQUAL RIGHTS. Dr. Duprey has also contributed to educational progress in Porto Rico under two systems—the Spanish and the American schools. She began her teaching career in 1866 at the age of 13, and continued in Spanish Government schools until 1898. During this time she wrote a geography, which was adopted for use in the insular schools. She has also written a Spanish grammar and considerable short fiction. She was the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree from the Provincial Institute of Porto Rico.

Doña Ana Roqué de Duprey has shown a keen interest in Feminism as an advancing international movement. She has published many articles, with cordial editorial comment, on the work of the National Woman's Party and on the Inter-American Commission of Women. Living more than three-score and ten years on her tropical island, she has made herself a vital part of the Feminist tide sweeping the world.

DAY PRINTING COMPANY
PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS
600 East Lombard Street
Baltimore, Md.